

SECRET

22 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: 22 November 1954 Briefing of the Task Force
on Intelligence Activities**

1. The principal topics included in the briefing today were International Communism, Soviet Intelligence Services, and Operational Clearances. Colonel Lane was obviously impressed with the number and caliber of aids and studies prepared by the Agency on International Communism and Soviet Intelligence, requesting that a number of these be made available for his future perusal.

Christian
2. Colonel Lane remarked that in the last month or so, General Clark has received a large amount of correspondence from interested citizens, former employees, cranks, etc. -- all suggesting methods for improving the American Intelligence System and pointing out supposed weaknesses. He stated that one patriotic citizen, on his own expense, came to Washington from Maine in order to have a personal meeting with General Clark so that he could demonstrate why the Clandestine Services were on the wrong track. He added that General Lemminger is heading a committee to study all this correspondence on its merit, but that he (Colonel Lane) was going to suggest to General Clark that these letters be made available to the Agency upon completion of the investigation.

3. Colonel Lane demonstrated an unusual interest in the procedure of getting clearances and the granting of approvals for the use of indigenous agents which again points out his security mindedness. He remarked that a finger of scorn has been pointed at us because of our use of uncleared indigenous personnel and that certain people, including Senator McCarthy just can't realize and won't understand that the use of such personnel is essential in this business and that, in reality, it is impossible to clear them in the same sense that we clear U. S. personnel. Colonel Lane added that CIA undoubtedly does have Communists working for them, but knows it in each instance.

4. Colonel Lane remarked that one report criticized the Agency for their use of low-caliber agents and recommended that we should attempt

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~~EYES ONLY~~

in our recruitment to obtain a higher class of agents. There was no further elaboration on this report.

5. Colonel Lane was quite elated over a specially prepared Birthday Card.

25X1A



PFC

~~EYES ONLY~~

YES ONLY

22 November 1954

Questions asked by Colonel Lane during 22 November Briefing

- Q. In your opinion, why was Beria eliminated?
- Q. To what do you attribute the lack of Communist strength in Panama?
- Q. What are the intentions of the Communists with respect to South America? 25X1C
- Q. Did you get any top Soviet agents as a result of the [REDACTED]
- Q. Do the other Services (Army and Navy) request training from you people on the Russian Intelligence Service?
- Q. What percentage of people in this game go batty? 25X1C
- Q. How do you people [REDACTED] tie in with Colonel Sheffield Edwards?
- Q. How do you recruit indigenous agents?
- Q. Do you recruit agents also in the United States?
- Q. Who has the responsibility to determine, in the final analysis, whether or not to use one of these indigenous people?
- Q. How long does it take to get a provisional operational clearance?
- Q. How many people do you have in your branch? (Asked of every branch visited)

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the Central Intelligence Agency.

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5/5/92

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